

From the President

ON THE GENERAL STATUTES AND CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE OF THE EXPERT MEMBERS OF INCORM

Although InCoRM was originally founded by a small group of art historians and scientists in Paris in April 2007, it did not become a formally registered non-profit organisation until February 2008. This was recorded in the Paris *Journal Officiel de la République Française – Lois et Décrets – Associations*, No. 1673, of 16 February 2008, where it is called the International Committee of Russian Modernism.

In its Mission Statement of April 2007, the founding members – university lecturers and professors, curators, art advisors, publishers, restorers, scientists – declared the intention of InCoRM and its Expert members to be to “respond to an increasing demand amongst art amateurs, collectors, museums and institutions for a coherent and unified approach to Russian Modernism”, and whose “activities will include consulting and reporting on works [of art] presented to them, organising and consulting on exhibitions, and sponsoring art historical publications. Besides its function of expertising works of art it has a second function, which is to inform about the works of art from a scholarly point of view. This will include articles by art historians as well as by technical [scientific] experts.”

Since that time, the aims and objectives of InCoRM have not changed but the means for achieving them have been refined by common agreement amongst the Expert Members. That is to say, InCoRM became a *Chamber* in the spring of 2009 and is no longer a *Committee*. The difference is crucial.

A *Committee* would have met to confer on and analyse works of art, each member submitting a report that would have been the basis for a general report issued by InCoRM. Never having functioned as a committee, InCoRM never took this initial step to call a meeting of Experts as a committee. No reports on works of art were ever made in the name of InCoRM, while the issuance of authentications in its name had been ruled out from the start.

As a *Chamber*, InCoRM is a body of independent Expert Members who, in addition to their own professional activities, may consult on Russian Modernism to museums or other arts institutions, examine works of art and write Expertises as art historians or scientists, and publish their studies and research, all of which they do in their own names. In the autumn of 2009, the *Journal of InCoRM* was inaugurated in order to “inform about works of art from a scholarly point of view”.

As a Chamber, the Expert Members are fulfilling the aims of the Mission Statement but as individuals and not in the name of InCoRM, while the *Journal of InCoRM* is making both the history of Russian Modernism and new research available to the public on-line and in print.

Being an Expert Member of InCoRM is a statement that one is adhering to the highest ethical standards of professionalism and scholarship in the investigation and furthering of Russian Modernism. This is of major importance and significance in the current climate where some unregulated art historical practice, in particular, is without a consensus of standards.

Being an Expert Member of InCoRM is likewise a statement of a commitment to cooperation and collaboration amongst colleagues whether within their own field or in complementary disciplines. Experts are moving away from the isolation that has been experienced by specialists in the field of Russian Modernism, forming a community where each can contribute to the work of others and together advance the recognition of Russian Modernism as a whole.

All the Expert Members of InCoRM – whose names can be found on the homepage of the InCoRM website, www.incorm.eu – have committed themselves to the ideals of InCoRM, to its Statutes, and to the Code of Good Practice.

Patricia Railing, President

The International Chamber of Russian Modernism

GENERAL STATUTES

1 Definition of InCoRM

InCoRM is an association of art historians and scientific Experts devoted to increasing knowledge and awareness of Russian Modernism so that a coherent and unified approach to it can be established, developed, and pursued.

2 Function of InCoRM

InCoRM has two functions: that of well-informed and scholarly research, and that of consultancy in the field of Russian Modernism, this consultancy being predicated on InCoRM's high standard of research and the excellence of its Expert members.

3 Duty of InCoRM

InCoRM's duty is to assure the continuation of such high standards of excellence in all its publications, and in all aspects of consultancy by its Expert members, all of which will be carried out and made in good faith and according to the information available at the time of writing.

4 Responsibilities of InCoRM

To promote information and knowledge on Russian Modernism and its achievements, through its commitment to publishing the research findings of its Expert Members and work by other scholars and scientists which will appear in the public domain on its website for the benefit of the widest public.

5 Rights of InCoRM

- a InCoRM has the right to exist in the form it sets out in its Statutes, to promote Russian Modernism, and to strive for the ideals of InCoRM.
- b To publish the results of well-founded and scholarly research arising out of the work of its Experts and invited contributors.
- c To publish art historical and scientific information studies in the *Journal of InCoRM*.
- d To defend the integrity and reputation of its Experts, unless convincing reason to the contrary is made or given. In this case InCoRM will act in accordance with French law.

- e InCoRM reserves the right to do whatever is ethical, lawful and in the public interest in the promulgation, defence, and protection of Russian Modernism.

6 Restrictions

InCoRM will not engage in any unlawful activity or where a conflict of interest to its commitments arises.

THE CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE OF THE EXPERT MEMBERS OF InCoRM

THE EXPERT

- 1 The Expert is either an art historian or a scientific expert who has full qualifications in their field and has become a recognised authority within his or her specialism in Russian Modernism, known by publications, research, and other activities (such as lecturing, scientific collection of data, art historical or scientific expertises, extensive knowledge based on previous experience, etc.). Their authority is based on the information and knowledge available at the time of any written document, article, and so on.
- 2 The **art historical Expert** is a specialist who is able to:
 - a recognise the artistic nature, origins, historical period, and the stylistic context of the works submitted to him or her;
 - b determine the place of the works in the artist's known body of work, and establish the coherence of this;
 - c recognise anomalies that would preclude a work being attributed to a given artist.
- 3 The **scientific Expert** is a specialist who is able to:
 - a identify the physical nature, in all its aspects, of

- the works submitted to him or her;
 - b recognise characteristics that are coherent with the attribution of a work to a given artist;
 - c recognise anomalies that would give rise to questions concerning the attribution of a work to a given artist.
- 4 Art historical and scientific Experts have shown proof of ethical conduct, integrity, and without compromise to excellence in the exercise of their professions.

Duties of the Expert

- 5 The Expert must bring all his or her experience, and professional scientific or art historical competence, to all the studies, assessments, and any other work that is published in the *Journal of InCoRM* or in Consultancy.
- 6 The Expert must fulfil the task within the InCoRM standards of excellence according to its rules of honour, morality, legality, and reason.
- 7 The Expert must exercise his or her function with honesty, truthfulness, and fairness, and independent of opinions and actions of physical and moral persons with whom they are in a professional relationship of any kind.
- 8 The Expert must refrain from any action which, in his or her position of Expert:
- a could bring discredit to InCoRM, or to another Expert within InCoRM;
 - b is an abuse of his or her status of Expert within InCoRM to the detriment of any other;
 - c would receive any commission or favours, other than the agreed remuneration accorded by a commissioning body (museum, gallery, collector, etc.), should there be any;
 - d to draw up any documents in the name of InCoRM that have not been specifically requested in writing from InCoRM.
- 9 In compliance with the legal or regulatory provisions in force, the Expert is constrained by the strictest confidentiality and discretion in regards to all consultancy, and must restrict his or her opinions to that which is related directly to this consultancy.

The Expert may not divulge or publish the result of his or her work as a consultant without having prior agreement and permission in writing from the commissioning body.

There is no time limitation to this provision.

The Expert must see that the same provisions are complied with by any collaborators in consultancy.

Any failure of the duty of confidentiality may lead to permanent exclusion from the Association.

- 10 The Expert must be able to carry out his or her research and investigations in optimal circumstances. Where archival documentation is not available, or recourse to it not made possible, the Expert cannot be made responsible for this impediment to the fulfilment of his or her consultancy, which is carried out in good faith and to the extent of available information at the time of writing.
- 11 The Expert should comply with the deadlines that accompany all consultancy. Any delays or obstructions in fulfilling the consultancy should be substantiated in writing to the commissioning body.
- 12 Every report, opinion, photograph, or other document used in consultancy and submitted by the Expert to the commissioning body should be signed and dated.
- 13 The Expert has the obligation to continually improve his or her professional accomplishment and excellence.

Responsibilities of the Expert

- 14 The Expert alone is responsible for the studies and work of which he or she is author.
- 15 In the context of consultancy, the Expert is responsible for his or her collaborators.
- 16 The Expert is responsible for all documents or any other materials that have been placed in his or her care for the carrying out of the consultancy.

Rules of the Fellowship of Experts

- 17 The Expert has the duty to never embarrass another

Expert in public or in private by denouncement of any kind, whether personal or professional.

- 18 If there is a difference of opinion in any consultancy, this should be resolved amicably and by discussion and comparison of documents.
- 19 Should this fail, the matter will be put before the Board of InCoRM.

Rights of the Expert

- 20 The Expert, as author of his or her studies and research, has the right to claim “intellectual property” before any official body, while copyright for whatever is published by InCoRM is shared between the author and InCoRM.
- 21 The Expert has the right to work with collaborators of his or her own choice, or by agreement with the commissioning body, in order to successfully carry out the consultancy requested. No one can impose a collaborator on the Expert without his or her agreement.
- 22 If, during any consultancy, the Expert believes that further investigation should be carried out, he or she has the right to request this of the client (collector, museum, auction house, art fair, etc.). Should this request not be honoured, the Expert has the right to desist from further engaging in the consultancy.

What is Prohibited

- 23 The Expert cannot accept a consultancy where there is:
 - a a conflict of interest;
 - b where there are personal interests;
 - c where there are family relationships;
 - d where there are commercial relationships.

Discipline

- 24 In case of any breach of ethics, of the Code of Good Practice of the Expert, or of non-adherence to the Statutes of InCoRM, disciplinary sanctions may be imposed on the Expert member. These sanctions will

be considered and decided upon by the Board and a Disciplinary Committee made up of three members of Experts, selected by ballot from the body of Experts.

- 25 The Expert who undergoes disciplinary procedures by his or her colleagues may have any of the following sanctions imposed:
 - a a warning;
 - b a reprimand;
 - c a temporary exclusion;
 - d an indefinite exclusion.

The procedure must be by cross examination. The Expert who is being accused must be able to defend him- or herself according to normal rights of defence.